(c) if so, by when these are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) As the Telugu Ganga Project has not been cleared, these questions do not arise.

Processing of Fruits and Vegetables

2085. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of various types of fruits and vegetables produced in the country and the estimated value thereof;

(b) the percentage of the total production of fruits and vegetables processed in the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of friuts and vegetables worth hundreds of crores of rupees is lost because of lack of a proper processing industry; and

(d) if so, what is Govrenment's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) There is no official estimate for production of friuts and vegetables in the country. However, the annual production of fruits is 34 million tonnes and vegetables 23.5 million tonnes as per the rough estimates for 1984-85. The total estimated value of fruit and vegetable production is about Rs. 7000 crores.

(b) The quantity of fruits and vegetables processed in the country is less than one percent of the estimated annual production.

(c) Some of the fruits and vegetables which are suitable for processing are not processed due to lack of facilities.

(d) The following steps have been taken to ensure expansion of fruit and vegetable processing industry in the country:

1. Import of equipment and machinery for processing has been liberalised and the import duty has been reduced.

2. A plan scheme has been introduced for assistance to the State Governments/Cooperative Undertakings for takings up of fruit and vegetable processing.

3. A separate Corporation, namely, North-eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. has been set up for fostering the growth of horticulture and horticulture-based industry in North-eastern Region.

4. Modern Food Industry India Ltd. has diversified into fruit and vegetable processing.

5. Fruit Preservation Centre have been set up in the State to train housewives on the processing of fruits and vegetables.

Telugu Ganga Project

2086. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of funds in the construction of Telugu Ganga Project;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have approached the Central Government for the sanction of funds for the project;

(c) whether the required funds have not yet been sanctioned and released by the Central Government